

Mink Has Hypnotic Effect on Women

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

If you're thinking of buying your wife a mink for Christmas there's a store in Dallas that will let you have a coat of black mink for a mere \$75,000. Mink sales this year are expected to reach \$260 million. That's 80 per cent of the total \$325 million fur market.

The popularity of mink can be traced to its almost hypnotic effect on women. When a female receives one it's "like a dream come true." As a result minks can now be purchased in a variety of patterns. Instead of the traditional natural brown mink and the broad range of mutation shades from silver blue to white, there are new mink patterns that combine light and dark pelts in checks, chevrons and heringbones.

There is a store in Allentown, Pa. that sells a \$3,500 mink that can be reversed to a raincoat on the other side.

TO MEET this year's demand for mink coats about 12 million of the little animals will give up their skins for coats, stoles, jackets, accessories and trimming. While this might appall animal lovers, breeders do take tender care of minks while they're growing. To breed a mink properly a raiser must have a thorough knowledge of genetics and psychology, and do a great deal of nursing. Minks are so sensitive that a low-flying plane can pitch them into mortal frenzies.

Mink breeding is conducted in the cold-weather states of the Midwest and North. The biggest producers are Wisconsin, 30 per cent; Minnesota, 12 per cent; Utah, 7 per cent, and Washington, Ohio, Oregon, and New York.

Nursing Programs To Expand

Beginning in the fall of 1967, El Camino College will expand its registered nursing and medical assistant programs and introduce a vocational nursing program, according to Carl Meadows, dean of the Division of Natural Science.

Expansion of the registered nursing program will include the addition of a section of 20 students. This addition is based on the needs of the community to fill hospital vacancies, Meadows said. Because of the greater interest in the program, two instructors will be added to the staff.

"When the program opened four years ago, there were 40 students. This fall there are 60 students participating in the program," Meadows said.

Starting in the fall of 1967, 45 students will be able to receive vocational nursing training. The training will last one full year and include one summer session. A minimum of a tenth grade education will be required. The introduction of this program will require the addition of three nursing instructors, Meadows added.

Limited to only two courses this year, the medical assistant program will also expand into a full program next fall.

HERE'S A QUIZ for the do-it-yourselfers. Which modern hand tool is likely to be found in the tool boxes of almost every type of building tradesman — carpenters, electricians, plumbers, concrete workers, pipefitters, steel fabricators and air conditioning installers?

You may never have seen one but the chances are you have heard them if you have ever been sidewalk superintendent at a construction site. It's what is known as a powder-actuated tool, and not since the hammer and screwdriver has a single tool been utilized by so many different craftsmen. It uses the explosive power of a blank cartridge to drive all types of fasteners into concrete and mild steel in order to secure cabinets, mount air conditioning ducts, install window frames, assemble concrete forms and hang ceilings.

And if you think fastening is an incidental aspect of construction work, digest this statistic: Nearly a quarter of a million fastening pins were driven into one 540-unit development in Portland, Ore., according to Omark Industries, Inc., a leading powder-actuated tool manufacturer.

A SAFETY vial has been developed that children don't have the strength or skill to open. It's used for drugs and the manufacturer is currently turning out 80,000 vials a day. In Alaska tourists shell out up to \$60 for an oosik. In case you don't know what an oosik is it's a decorative walrus bone. More and more advertising money is being expended in military editions of magazines. Pitches are being made to servicemen for cars, cigarettes, beer, liquor and toiletries. A lady in New York has a supply of 10,000 old New York signs which she sells for \$15 each. Most of her customers want a sign from the street on which they were born.

A 'BUBBLE BOOM' is believed to be brewing at northern marinas threatened each winter by costly ice damage to docks, piles and boats.

Basis for that belief is the increased interest being shown by boat owners and marina operators in ice-fighting bubbler systems, says Worthington Corporation a leading manufacturer of compressors used in the systems.

"Bubbler systems have been used on a very limited scale for several years, but now it appears that boaters are beginning to recognize them as practical devices, not just interesting novelties," a spokesman notes.

The grinding and pounding action of ice, as some marina operators have learned the hard way, can cause thousands of dollars' damage to facilities. Experience at those marinas already equipped with professionally designed bubbler systems indicates that they're 95 per cent effective in preventing such damage, according to Worthington.

The systems prevent ice from forming by forcing compressed air through underwater air-discharge units. The bubbles not only agitate the surface, but also carry with them water from the

bottom, which is warmer than that at the surface and, in the case of salt water, more saline.

AN AUTO safety device has been introduced that automatically sets off a buzzer when the car is put into reverse. It's called the "Back Alert." The buzzer alerts the driver, other motorists, and pedestrians that the car is backing up. A credit card wallet is available that immediately displays 10 or 12 cards at a flick of the wrist. A refrigerator called "Food-Life Preserver" reportedly keeps uncovered, unwrapped food for days without any drying out. A moist-cold section of the refrigerator makes this possible.

Saxon Club Elects New President

Pam Oliver has been elected president of the North High chapter of the National Forensic League, according to Lehr Mushrush, faculty sponsor of the club.

Other officers of the Saxon club are Nancy Hewitt, vice president; Robert Shockley, secretary; Vickie Larson, treasurer, and Shelia Levy, statistician.

Bruno Jacob, executive secretary of the national group, will speak before North High students Wednesday, Dec. 14 and the club will hold its banquet Dec. 29. The club recently received one of 25 awards given to local groups leading in degrees and new members.

Chambers to Meet

Members of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will meet Thursday evening at 7:30

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